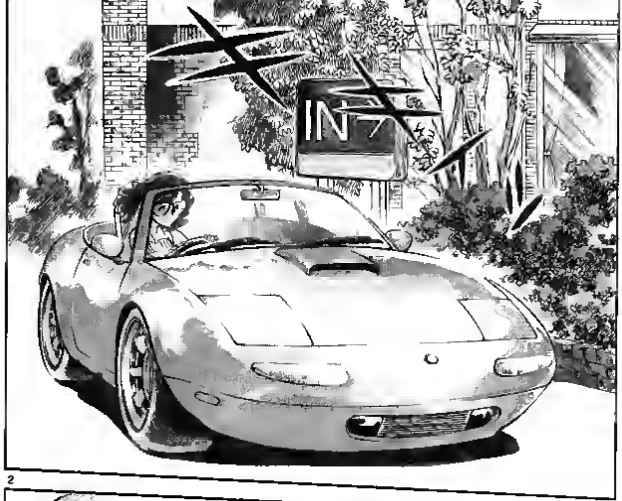
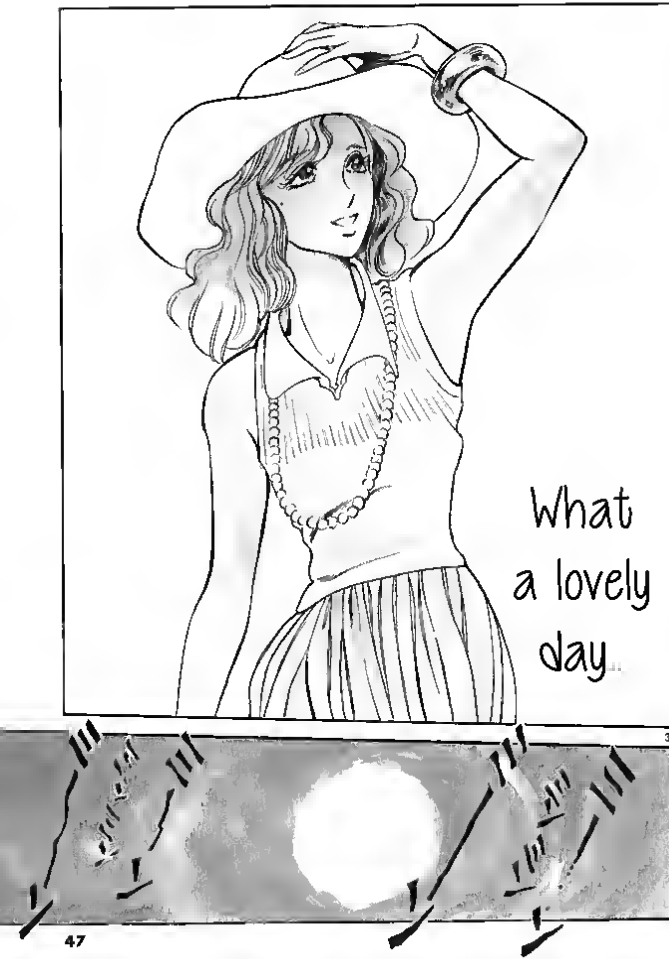
EPISODE 3: TEARS OF A MANGA ARTIST'S TRAGIC LOVE



2

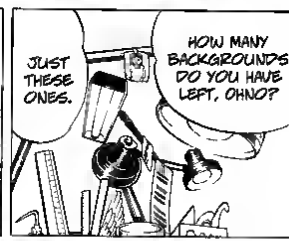

What a lovely day...
3

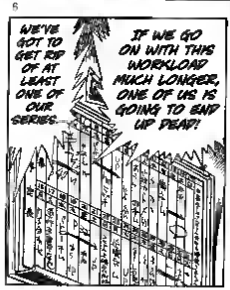
IT'S SUMMER AT BLAZING PRODUCTIONS (32°C)
HONDA
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ

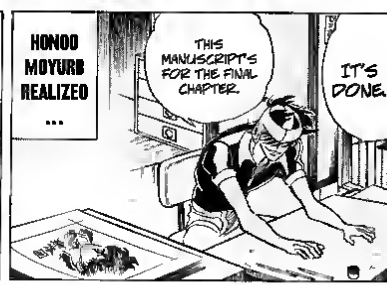
THIS DIVINE DRINK CAN DRIVE FATIGUE AWAY!!
SHIN-RIN!
ゴゴゴ

WORKING ON SIX MONTHLY SERIES!!
JUST YOUR AVERAGE MANGA-OBSESSED WRITER...
MANGA ARTIST Honoo Moyuru
PHEWWWWW
FUJIOKA HIROSHI

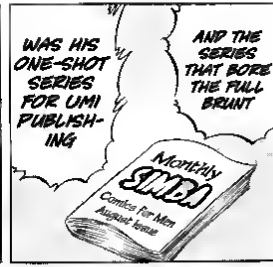
HI, HONOO, HOW'S THE SERIES FOR UMI PUBLISHING COMING?
SO THAT'D TAKE ABOUT THREE HOURS IF I JOINED IN...


JUST THESE ONES.
HOW MANY BACKGROUNDS DO YOU HAVE LEFT, OHNO?


WE'VE GOT TO GET RID OF AT LEAST ONE OF OUR SERIES.
IF WE GO ON WITH THIS WORKLOAD MUCH LONGER, ONE OF US IS GOING TO END UP DEAD!


HONOO MOYURU REALIZED ...
THIS MANUSCRIPT'S FOR THE FINAL CHAPTER.
IT'S DONE.

PLEASE DON'T HATE ME FOR THIS, KAWANA-KAJIMA!
I'M GOING TO END IT AS OF THIS MONTH!


WAS HIS ONE-SHOT SERIES FOR UMI PUBLISHING
AND THE SERIES THAT BORE THE FULL BRUNT
Monthly SUMO
Comics For Men
August Issue

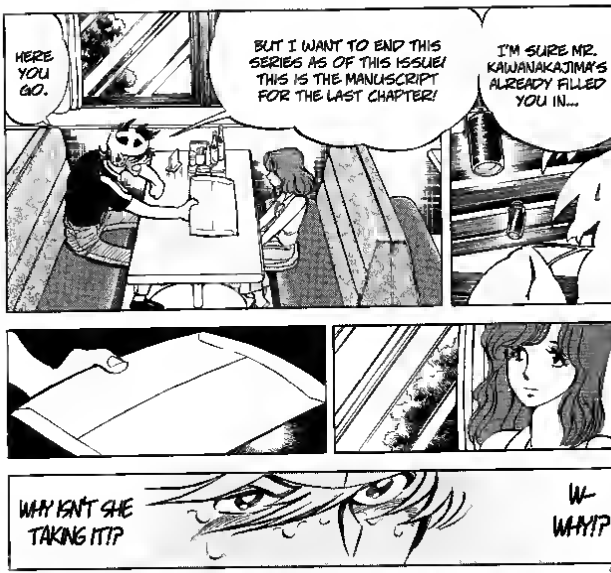
Those assuring words gave the assistants a little bit of relief.

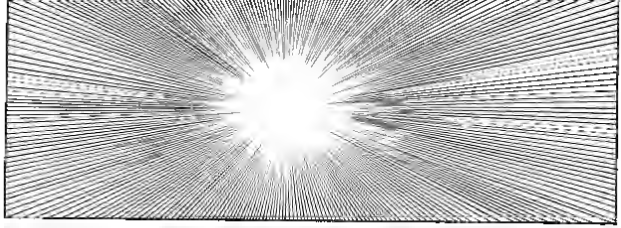
フッ

7

HUH?
MR. KAWANA-KAJIMA COLLAPSED!?
MR. HONDO, YOU'VE GOT A CALL FROM YOUR EDITOR AT UMI PUBLISHING.
GOT IT.

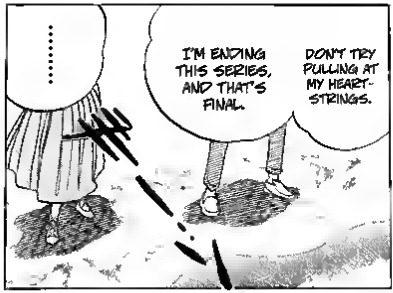
I'm Aizawa, Mr Kawanakajima's pinch-hitter
AIZAWA ORAP
Monthly Shonen Simba
Are you Mr Honoo?
Hey!
?
じ
I'M SURE HE'LL BE FINE.
YOU THINK HE'S REALLY GOING TO CANCEL HIS SERIES?
LET'S JUST GET THIS MANUSCRIPT DONE AND OVER WITH.
You're really handsome!


HERE YOU GO.
BUT I WANT TO END THIS SERIES AS OF THIS ISSUE! THIS IS THE MANUSCRIPT FOR THE LAST CHAPTER!
I'M SURE MR. KAWANAKAJIMA'S ALREADY FILLED YOU IN...
WHY ISN'T SHE TAKING IT!?
W-WHY!?
9
I want to go to the beach!!
I



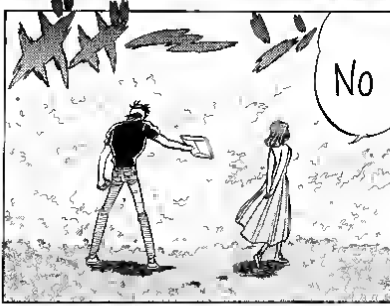
10

It's so cold!
Ahhh!
Oh you!
TAKE THIS!
You're so mean!
Stop it!
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING HERE!?
MWAAAAAAAAAUGH...
MEANWHILE, THE ASSISTANTS WERE WAITING, DRENCHED IN SWEAT, FOR HONDO TO RETURN FHOM HIS APPOINTMENT.


.....
I'M ENDING THIS SERIES, AND THAT'S FINAL.
DON'T TRY PULLING AT MY HEART-STRINGS.

TAKE IT!
HERE'S THE MANUSCRIPT FOR THE LAST CHAPTER!

12


No

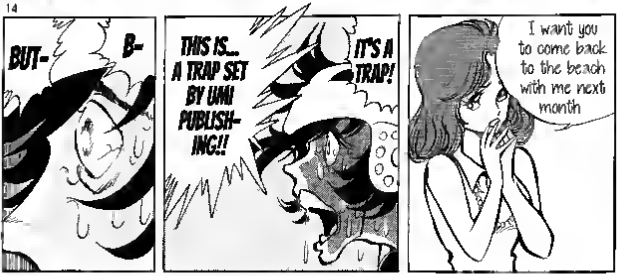
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
That's why you're doing this!!
You think I'm ugly, don't you?
Y-YOU'RE REALLY PRETTY!!
You don't like me, do you?
HI...
QUITE FRANKLY, YOU'RE EXACTLY THE TYPE OF WOMAN I'M INTO...
YOU'VE GOT BEAUTIFUL EYES, AND A NICE STYLE!
13
THIS'LL BE MY 4TH SHOT!!
DAM-MIT!
PLEASE COME BACK, MR. HONDO!
STOP THAT! DRINKING TOO MANY IN A ROW ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU!
WHAT THE HELL AM I SAYING HERE!?

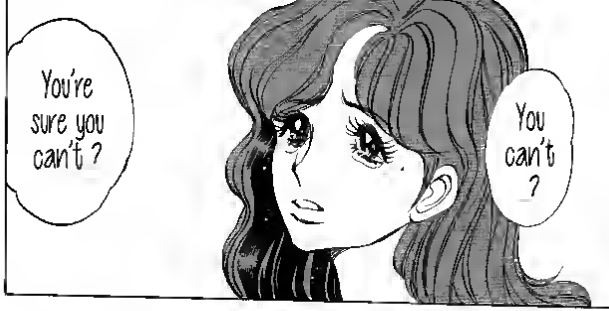
.....
JUST LOOK AT MY EXHAUSTED FACE!!
I'M OVER MY WORKLOAD LIMIT RIGHT NOW!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING AT ALL! JUST LISTEN TO ME!

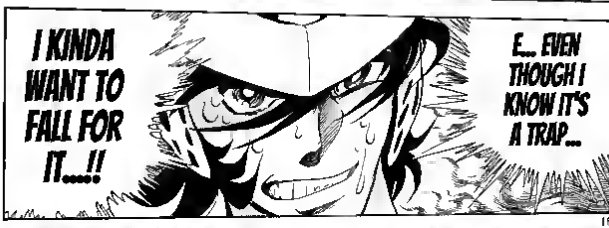
.....!?
Are your assistants more important to you than me?
EVEN MY ASSISTANTS ARE ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSING...

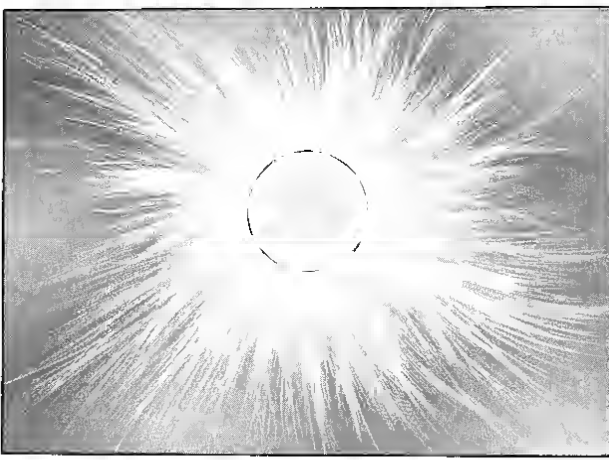
Who's more impor-tant?
W-WELL...

14


BUT-
B-
THIS IS... A TRAP SET BY UMI PUBLISH-ING!!
IT'S A TRAP!
I want you to come back to the beach with me next month

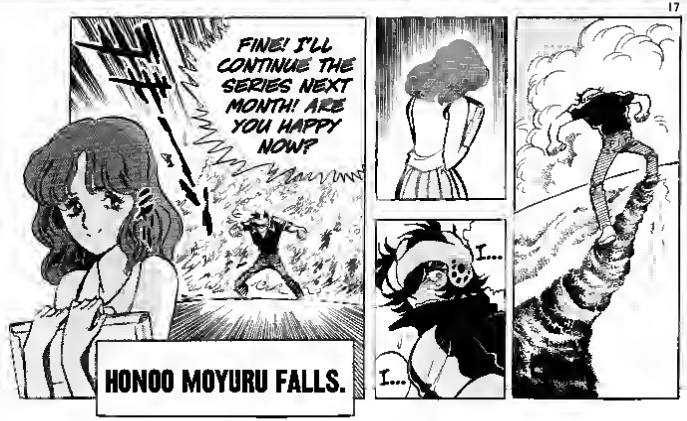

You're sure you can't ?
You can't ?


I KINDA WANT TO FALL FOR IT....!!
E... EVEN THOUGH I KNOW IT'S A TRAP...

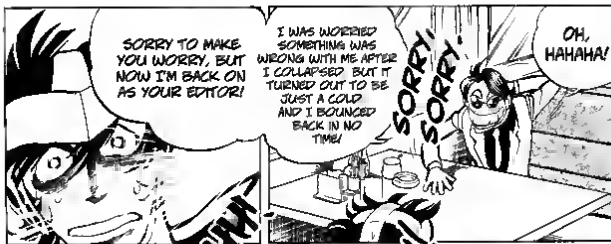


TAKE IT!
I'M NOT A GREENHORN THAT'D CHANGE MY MIND FOR SOME PRETTY WOMAN!!
NO! I'M HONOO MOYURU, AGE 27!!
ARRRRRRRRRRRRRRRGH!

.....!
NO! DON'T LOOK BACK!!
YES! THIS IS ALL FOR THE BEST!!


FINE! I'LL CONTINUE THE SERIES NEXT MONTH! ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
I...
I...
HONOO MOYURU FALLS.

NEXT MONTH
NEGOTIATION WITH MONTHLY SIMBA


SORRY TO MAKE YOU WORRY, BUT NOW I'M BACK ON AS YOUR EDITOR!
I WAS WORRIED SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH ME AFTER I COLLAPSED BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE JUST A COLD AND I BOUNCED BACK IN NO TIME!
SORRY! SORRY!
OH, HAHAHA!

MEANWHILE, THE KUNOICHI EDITOR WAS HARD AT WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE...

BURNING PEN

CHAPTER 3 PRESENTED BY HOKUTO NO GUN

STORY AND ART BY: KAZUHIKO
ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY: KAT
TRANSLATION CHECK BY: SYSTEMA
EDITING BY: KAZUHIKO